

Mr. I. C. Chacko (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Irrigation and Miscellaneous*): (a) The Committee's recommendation is under the consideration of Government.

(b) A provision of Rs. 1,000 is made in the budget for 1119 for preliminary investigation works.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: Sir, with regard to the answer to part (b) may I know whether investigation was not conducted in the past by competent Engineers and exhaustive reports submitted to Government?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: Sir, only preliminary investigations were conducted on previous occasions.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: Then, what is the necessity for providing another Rs. 1,000 for this preliminary investigation?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: This allotment is made to prepare a detailed estimate.

Food production and construction of new roads.

2. ***Mr. K. M. Kesavan** (*Karunagapalli, Kartikapalli and Ambalapuzha cum Shertalla*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have opened any road anywhere with a view to encourage food production during the current year?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: No.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: May I know whether any requisitions were made for opening new roads by the public?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: No, not for the purpose of food production.

Salt for manure.

3. ***Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar** (*Parur, Kunnatnad and Muvattupuzha cum Devicolum*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether salt was purchased by any section of the public anywhere in Travancore for purposes of manure in the years 1116 and 1117;

(b) if the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, what was the total quantity purchased in those years for purposes of manure; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) is in the negative, what were the reasons for not purchasing the same?

Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan (*Excise Commissioner*):

(a) Yes.

(b) 4 Mds. in 1116 and 28 Mds. in 1117.

(c) In view of answer to part (b) this question does not arise.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: With reference to the answer to part (b) may I know from the honourable member whether salt is not good as manure for agricultural purposes?

Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan : Yes, to some extent. That is why, special concessions are being given.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : May I know whether it is possible to make sufficient quantities of manure available in all the depots of the State?

Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan : Under the rules, subject to conditions regarding denaturing, they could get any amount of salt they require for manure. No maximum has been fixed.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : Because stringent measures have been adopted by the Government, the people who go for purchasing manures do not get sufficient quantities.

Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan : The rules have to be stringent as the issue is duty free. Otherwise, Government revenue under 'salt' will suffer. It is seen that these rules were framed in 1115. After that, there has been progressive increase in the salt used. In 1117 the amount of salt issued was 28 maunds and in 1118, so far 126 maunds have already been issued.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : May I know whether it is not feasible to entrust Agricultural Inspectors so that they may ascertain whether the salt issued is being properly used?

Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan : There are certain restrictions imposed after mature consideration. The Agricultural Department authorities countersign the applications for salt and the Excise Department issue the salt after denaturing.

Cartable roads in the Devicolam taluk.

4. ***Mr. K. M. Kesavan :** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any cartable roads in the Kanthalloor and Keezhamthoor panchayats of the Devicolam taluk; and

(b) if so, their length?

Mr. I. C. Chacko : (a) None.

(b) This does not arise in view of the answer to part (a).

Export of tapioca chips.

5. ***Mr. T. Krishna Pillai :** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they have prohibited the export of tapioca chips; and

(b) if not, the reason therefor?

Mr. A. S. Damodaran Asan (Food Grains Purchase Officer) : (a) Export without permits has been prohibited.

(b) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (a).